

AUG 21 1961

Approved For Release 2005/01/04 : CIA-RDP75-00149R000700210019-5

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X Pg 2 Edward
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CHATTING WITH Edward Shaw (left), the "Fair Play for Cuba" committee's midwest representative (from right)

Joseph Peroni of Youngstown; Joseph Jelle of Cleveland and George Chomalou of Akron, the meeting chairman.

Speaker Raps U. S. Attitude

'Fair Play For Cuba' Group Forms Here

By HOWARD GOLDBERG

The United States was depicted as an imperialistic aggressor bent on undermining a benevolent regime at an organization meeting Sunday of a "Fair Play for Cuba" Committee.

Anti-Castro Cubans here "sound like a Cuban branch of the John Birch Society in exile. To them, everybody is a Communist," the guest speaker said.

THE SPEAKER was Edwin Shaw, midwest representative of the committee which, he says, has 7,000 members across the nation. Ohio has Cleveland and Youngstown chapters.

"We want to tell the truth about Cuba," Shaw told 35 persons at the New Portage Hotel. Sponsoring formation of an Akron chapter are George Chomalou, 865 E. Market st., a salesman, and Fred Peroni, a Field Local School District (Portage County) history teacher.

Contrary to "false impressions" created by the American press and government, Shaw said, the Castro regime is far from tyrannical.

"Fidel Castro is popular in Havana—even if he isn't popular in Washington," he said. "One reason the April invasion failed was because the people rallied to support him."

SHAW said that since the revolution which overthrew dictator Fulgencio Batista, the Castro government has ended corruption, curtailed political murders, wiped out racial discrimination, spread land reform and wiped out gambling.

that drained the peasants' earnings.

The committee's main objective Shaw described as "getting Castro back on our side." This involves reuniting diplomatic relations and dissolving the partial embargo against the island.

Shaw accused the United States of placing itself in the "hypocritical position" of decrying East Germany's sealing of its borders to halt the refugee exodus while erecting its own wall against American travel to Cuba.

SHAW denounced President Kennedy's Latin American aid program for outfitting Cuba, blamed the "Tractors for Freedom" committee for failure of negotiations on exchanging tractors for prisoners, and termed airplane hijackings "a bitter pill for Americans to swallow after having made heroes and martyrs of Cubans who hijacked Castro's planes."

He interpreted the Central Intelligence Agency's (CIA) role in the Cuban invasion as signifying that Washington has "endorsed a policy of active sabotage, assassination and organized overthrow by military force of governments with which it disagrees."

Officers of the Akron chapter will be elected "in a few weeks," Chomalou said, and a program of local action will be initiated.